



The President's Daily Brief

26 July 1969

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I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

MIDDLE EAST

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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SOVIET AFFAIRS

The first known armed clash between the Soviet occupation forces and the Czechoslovak armed forces may have taken place in Karlovy Vary on 11 July. [REDACTED]

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there were a number of killed and wounded on both sides.

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Both incidents may have figured in Czechoslovak party chief Husak's talk with Brezhnev in Warsaw on 23 July.

II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

COMMUNIST CHINA

There has been much talk in Chinese domestic propaganda of "war preparations" in the wake of recent border incidents with the Soviets. We see no signs, however, of any efforts at military mobilization. Many aspects of the war readiness theme, moreover, are obviously designed to further important domestic goals, such as political unity and discipline and greater industrial and agricultural production. At this stage, Peking appears to be preparing its people primarily for an extended period of heightened tension with Moscow rather than for any imminent Soviet military actions.

ITALY

Faced with the continued intransigence of the right-wing Socialists (PSU), Rumor yesterday abandoned his efforts

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to reconstitute the center-left coalition. The best bet now is an all - Christian Democrat government; the main stumbling block will be the left wing of the Christian Democratic Party itself, which is still insisting on the inclusion of the left-wing Socialists even if the PSU refuses to participate.

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